

Ruby Ridge hearings expose former LaRouche prosecutor

by Edward Spannaus

"I live to put people in jail," former federal prosecutor Henry Hudson once said. But combining his past record, with his performance at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings on Ruby Ridge, one might justifiably conclude that it is Hudson himself who belongs in jail.

This additional exposure of Hudson's sleazy character is not the least of the benefits which have come out of the hearings which began on Sept. 6, probing the circumstances of the 1992 Idaho standoff and shootings involving the family of Randy Weaver. The hearings have also presented strong evidence that the FBI and the Department of Justice have engaged in a coverup of what happened at Ruby Ridge in 1992. The most compelling evidence to this effect came from FBI Special Agent Eugene Glenn, who was scapegoated by the FBI in order to protect higher-ups. Against the advice of lawyers who advised him to assert his Fifth Amendment privilege, Glenn gave testimony showing conclusively that top-level FBI officials were involved in formulating and approving the controversial "rules of engagement" for Ruby Ridge, and then that both FBI and DOJ investigators failed to seriously investigate what had happened.

Unlike numerous other FBI officials and supervisors who refused to testify before the hearings, Glenn said that he had been waiting for many months to tell his story, pointing out that he had not been asked about the formulation of the rules of engagement when FBI and Justice Department investigative reports were being prepared. This was in spite of the fact that Glenn had been the most senior FBI official on the ground in Idaho. Instead, Glenn had been disciplined and transferred, while the highest-ranking FBI official directly involved, Larry Potts, had been promoted.

Glenn also disclosed that FBI Hostage Rescue Team head Richard Rogers (one of those who declined to testify before the committee) had gotten a briefing before coming to Idaho, based on meetings that FBI and Justice Department officials had held after the shootout in which a deputy U.S. marshal was killed. This meeting included Henry Hudson, who was then the director of the U.S. Marshals Service.

This points directly to Deputy Assistant Attorney General Mark Richard, who supervises the Terrorism and Violent Crimes Section in the Department of Justice. Although Richard was directly involved in the DOJ chain of command on Ruby Ridge, he has managed so far to keep his name out of

the hearings. However, testimony so far indicates that he was almost certainly involved in the formulation of the fatal rules of engagement, and he was likely present at the DOJ Command Center on the day that an FBI Hostage Rescue Team sniper shot and killed Randy Weaver's wife, Vicki.

Prosecutorial abuse

Hudson was called before the Senate Judiciary hearings on Sept. 12 as the head of the U.S. Marshals Service during the Ruby Ridge shootings. Prior to being appointed by President George Bush to head the Marshals in early 1992, Hudson had been the U.S. Attorney in Alexandria, Virginia, who had railroaded Lyndon LaRouche to prison in 1988-89.

Not only was Hudson caught in a number of lies while giving his sworn testimony at the Senate hearings, but a fellow former U.S. Attorney told the committee that a scheme concocted by Hudson would have constituted prosecutorial misconduct and abuse of the grand jury process.

During his testimony, Hudson had described a plan he had come up with in the summer of 1992, to have the indictment against Randy Weaver dismissed, and then to have him secretly indicted again. Hudson claimed that if Weaver had believed the indictment had been dropped, he would have come off the mountain where his cabin was, and then could have been arrested. Hudson presented this as his way of avoiding a confrontation with Weaver, but complained that his plan had been rejected by the U.S. Attorney in Idaho at the time.

Three days later, Maurice Ellsworth, the former Idaho U.S. Attorney, was questioned about Hudson's plan. "I do agree that I refused his plan," said Ellsworth. "I thought it was a stupid plan." Ellsworth said that he and his staff had concluded that there were several problems with the plan to dismiss the indictment and then re-indict Weaver secretly, and he explained why they would not do it. First, he said, "I didn't think it would work. Weaver had already made statements to the effect that he had been tricked once by the government, he was not going to be tricked again . . . and he had been tricked when the ATF [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms] arrested him in the first instance, we found out." Secondly, said Ellsworth: "I was very concerned about what the court would do with that. The government is all the time being accused of duplicity and those kinds of things. And I was afraid that if we were to do that, that

ultimately the court would find that that was improper conduct on the part of the government, to be a misuse of the grand jury to have dismissed the indictment and then re-indicted him secretly.”

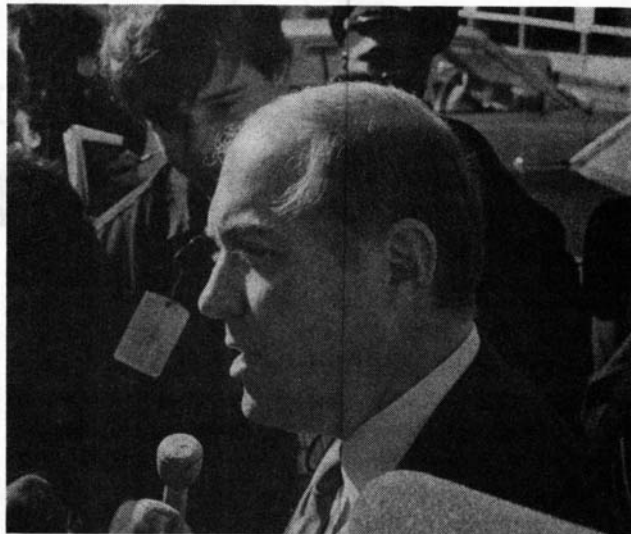
Ellsworth also stressed that Hudson, as a former U.S. Attorney, knew that “if he felt so strongly that they had a great plan,” that there was a procedure for resolving such disputes within the Justice Department. “He had a remedy,” Ellsworth concluded, “if he felt that that was the best plan under the sun to get Mr. Weaver down,” but Hudson obviously had not pursued it.

Another potential bloodbath

Hudson was also caught in a couple of direct lies during his testimony, as we reported last week (*EIR*, Sept. 22, p. 63.) Hudson’s testimony directly contradicted a contemporaneous FBI summary of his statements made to FBI investigators in November 1993. The FBI summary reported that Hudson had been briefed by his deputy John Twomey that Randy Weaver’s son Sammy had been shot by a marshal. Hudson denied knowing this, and complained that the FBI summary was “inaccurate.”

Hudson also told another lie, in order to avoid bringing up his most notorious case of prosecutorial misconduct, the LaRouche case. When Idaho Sen. Larry Craig asked Hudson if he had ever been involved in another situation where 400 law enforcement agents were deployed, Hudson denied it—and not just once, but twice. What Hudson, and doubtless many senators as well, did not want to touch, was the 400-man raid against the headquarters of organizations associated with LaRouche in Leesburg, Virginia, Oct. 6-7, 1986. Hudson had no such reticence back then: He held a press conference to mug for the cameras and gloat over the raid.

But that raid itself almost turned out very different; the parallels with the Weaver case are eerie. The FBI’s Hostage Rescue Team (HRT), which has come under scrutiny in the Waco and Weaver hearings, was likewise deployed for Hudson’s Leesburg raid. An FBI document from about ten days before the Leesburg raid declares that the FBI wants “to minimize the impression that an ‘assault operation’ is being conducted,” but that “such necessity will be planned for as a contingency need through HRT stand-by and State Police tactical team availability at a remote command post.” A week before the raid, the HRT’s Delta Team conducted an aerial reconnaissance of potential raid sites in and around Leesburg, according to official FBI documents. On the day of the raid, the HRT was again used for reconnaissance, and the HRT team was deployed on “standby” at the staging area (the 4-H fairgrounds), only a few miles from the farm which was used for LaRouche’s residence. An HRT helicopter and crew (just as at Ruby Ridge) was deployed, and, as part of the hype, an HRT team led a bomb-sniffing dog through the besieged office buildings, after sledge-hammer wielding FBI agents had broken into the headquarters of the publishers and distrib-



U.S. Attorney Henry Hudson in Alexandria, Virginia, Jan. 27, 1989, after the sentencing of Lyndon LaRouche and associates in a railroad trial.

utors of LaRouche’s writings.

Much more was planned. *EIR* has evidence that a bloody assault on LaRouche’s residence was being prepared for the evening of Oct. 6, but was called off after LaRouche sent a telegram warning of this to President Reagan.

Instrumental in this projected bloodbath were some close cronies of Hudson, who have themselves since been convicted of crimes and imprisoned. One of them, Loudoun County Sheriff’s Deputy Donald Moore, also designated as a “Special Deputy U.S. Marshal,” boasted that he was ready to go in and personally “take out” LaRouche during the raid.

Along with the HRT, an armored personnel carrier was also deployed at the 4-H fairgrounds. This APC was owned by an outfit known as Armored Response Group U.S. (ARGUS), an illegal joint venture of the Loudoun County sheriff and one “Generalissimo” Herbert Bryant. Like Moore, Bryant had been appointed a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal; Bryant was also president of a fundraising group called the U.S. Marshals Association. When Bryant was arrested by police in the District of Columbia in September 1992, he was immediately released by police after Henry Hudson’s Marshals Service vouched for him; this was later publicly confirmed by Hudson’s Deputy Director John Twomey.

On Aug. 31 of this year, Bryant was sentenced to six months in jail for impersonating a law enforcement official and making false statements at the time of his arrest on the gun charges. Along with former deputy Moore, and Cult Awareness Network (CAN) kidnapper Galen Kelly, Bryant becomes the third member of the “Get LaRouche” task force to go to jail. If anyone wanted to pursue Henry Hudson’s perjury before the Senate Judiciary hearings, this former prosecutor could easily become the fourth.